

# AGING & LONG-TERM SUPPORT ADMIN Kinship Navigator



## 2016 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

Request	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE	0	0.5	0.3
GF-State	\$0	\$468,000	\$468,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$468,000</b>	<b>\$468,000</b>

### DECISION PACKAGE SUMMARY

The Aging and Long Term Support Administration requests \$468,000 GF-State in Fiscal Year 2017 to expand the Kinship Navigator program to the Colville Indian Reservation, the Yakama Nation, and other tribal areas currently without services. This expansion will allow more children to stay with their families, helping family members continue to care for children when the parents are not able to do so, will divert them from foster care.

### PROBLEM STATEMENT

Grandparents or other relatives often step in to raise children when parents are unable. In FY14, the Kinship Caregiver program supported nearly 2,000 caregivers raising over 3,300 children. Often these children have special needs due to earlier trauma. Many caregivers live on limited incomes, are overwhelmed, isolated and do not know where to turn for support and information to keep the children safe and well cared for. This problem is especially critical in Indian Country where elders are more often responsible for kin children. Without this support, families are less able to provide care and the child may enter the formal child welfare system.

### PROPOSED SOLUTION

Expand Current Kinship Navigator program to the unserved Colville Indian Reservation, Yakama Nation and other tribal areas through Area Agencies on Aging offices in their vicinities. A total of four FTE contracted Kinship Navigator positions are requested, along with 0.5 FTE to manage the \$2 million annual program (once expanded).

### EXPECTED RESULTS

By assisting family members, usually grandparents, to continue to raise a child with the family even though the parents cannot do so, the child is much less likely to enter the foster care system. This keeps the family together, and prevents the direct and legal services costs of a foster care placement.

### STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

Children's advocates, the Colville Reservation, Yakama Nation and other tribes will support additional funding for the program. There is no anticipated opposition.



#### DSHS VISION

People are healthy • People are safe • People are supported • Taxpayer resources are guarded

#### DSHS MISSION

To transform lives

#### DSHS VALUES

Honesty and Integrity • Pursuit of Excellence • Open Communication • Diversity and Inclusion • Commitment to Service